



# 5 POINTS GATEWAY AREA ENHANCEMENT STUDY

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Prepared for

## CITY OF BETHLEHEM

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# Table Of Contents

1.	<b>5 Points Gateway Area Enhancement Study Executive Summary</b>	1
	Executive Summary	2
	Short-Term Actions	3
	Mid-Term Actions	3
	Long-Term Actions	3
2.	<b>5 Points Gateway Area Enhancement Study Final Report</b>	7
	I. Introductions/Study Background	8
	II. Data Collection/Analysis	10
	III. Public Meeting #1 January 12, 2004	15
	IV. Alternative Analysis	15
	V. Public Meeting #2	18
	VI. The 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept	18
	VII. 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept: Action Plan	19
	i. Short-Term Actions (0-6 months)	19
	ii. Mid-Term Actions (6-24 months)	19
	iii. Long-Term Actions (24+ months)	19
	VIII. Conclusion	23

## Figures/Tables/Appendix:

### Executive Summary

Figure 5: Short-Term Actions	5
Figure 6: Mid-Long-Term Recommendations	6

### Final Report

Figure 1: Study Area	9
Figure 2: Study Area Street Network	11
Figure 3: Parking Map	14
Figure 4: Conceptual One-way Couple	17
Figure 5: Short-Term Actions	21
Figure 6: Mid-Long-Term Recommendations	22

### Tables

Table 1: Existing Overall LOS	12
Table 15	25

### Appendix

Appendix "A"	24
Appendix "B"	30

# **5 POINTS GATEWAY AREA ENHANCEMENT STUDY**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Executive Summary**

The 5 Points Gateway Area (5 Points) has been studied on and off for about the last thirty years. Solutions that address the complicated interrelated issues that impact the overall quality of life in 5 Points have been elusive. The Southside Vision 2012 Master Plan identified 5 Points as a high priority area for revitalization. City programs like the Blight Elimination and Abatement Response (BEAR) Program have also targeted the 5 Points for revitalization.

The 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Study (Study) is a comprehensive approach in dealing with the issues that impact the quality of life in 5 Points as well as supplement existing targeted efforts like BEAR. The primary focus of the Study was aimed to:

- Improve pedestrian safety
- Add to the parking inventory
- If possible, also improve traffic flow

The Study did not examine previous decisions made in the area and place a value judgment on them as good or bad, right or wrong. Instead, existing conditions were identified and a strategy was developed on how to best address the current issues and move forward.

Numerous alternatives were explored, however, only one was found to meet the two primary objectives as well as improve traffic flow. The alternative has been developed into a comprehensive enhancement concept for the area called, The 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept (Concept). The Concept incorporates the use of a one-way couple traffic pattern, to allow for the addition of on-street parking and streetscape improvements that increase pedestrian safety and support the overall economic revitalization efforts of the area.

The City has presented the Concept to emergency service providers, Department of Public Works and PennDOT. All feel the Concept could work and did not identify any “fatal flaws”, however a number of questions must be satisfied if the project moves into the next phase of Preliminary Design. In addition, the City Planning Bureau felt the Concept supports the vision presented in the Southside Master Plan for 5 Points Gateway area.

Two public meetings and numerous one-on-one interviews with local businesses were held during the course of the study. The concept was also presented to City Council at a public meeting on November 4, 2004. Generally, the public supports the concept because it returns on-street parking, provides loading areas in front of stores along Wyandotte Street, improves pedestrian safety, creates an opportunity for additional streetscape enhancements, and reduces peak-hour time travel for through and local traffic. The major concern to be addressed in the next phase is the impact of changing travel patterns or commercial establishments.

The next step is to move from the Concept to preliminary design. Preliminary design will answer questions regarding design and cost and allow the City to make an informed decision on moving forward with the implementation of the concept. The attached action plan provides a time frame with the recommended next steps.

## **5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept: Action Plan**

### **SHORT-TERM ACTIONS – (0-6months)**

The following short-term actions are not meant to be permanent solutions but rather “band-aid” improvements until a more permanent long-term solution can be put in place. These improvements are relatively low in cost and can be implemented quickly. (Figure 5)

- **Traffic**
  1. Optimize Traffic Signals
  2. Start Preliminary Design on 5 Points Gateway Improvement Concept
  3. Apply for funding to implement improvements
- **Parking**
  1. Begin negotiations to secure Parking at 4<sup>th</sup> and Wyandotte and Flat Iron Garage.
    - The current lease expires at the end of 2006. The lot is important to the merchants of the area. If garage can be secured, permit parking should be moved from the lot to the garage and the lot should be metered for patrons of the area’s businesses. This provides short-term relief for the parking lost in the 400 block of Wyandotte St.
- **Pedestrian Safety**
  1. Re-paint Cross walks
  2. Work with Police Department and the Bethlehem Area School District to have crossing guards stationed at the 5 Points Gateway Area Intersections

### **MID-TERM ACTIONS (6-24 months)**

The following Mid-term Actions will provide the necessary design work for the 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept. Detailed cost estimates will be prepared and phasing for implementation will be examined (See Figure 6). This work should be conducted in close coordination with the Route 412 Final Design effort.

- **General**
  1. Continue Design of 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept
- **Traffic**
  1. Perform Required PennDOT Studies/Design to Implement One-way Couple Traffic Alternative
  2. Investigate Signage Improvements
- **Parking**
  1. Continue investigating acquisition of properties for additional parking and gateway improvements

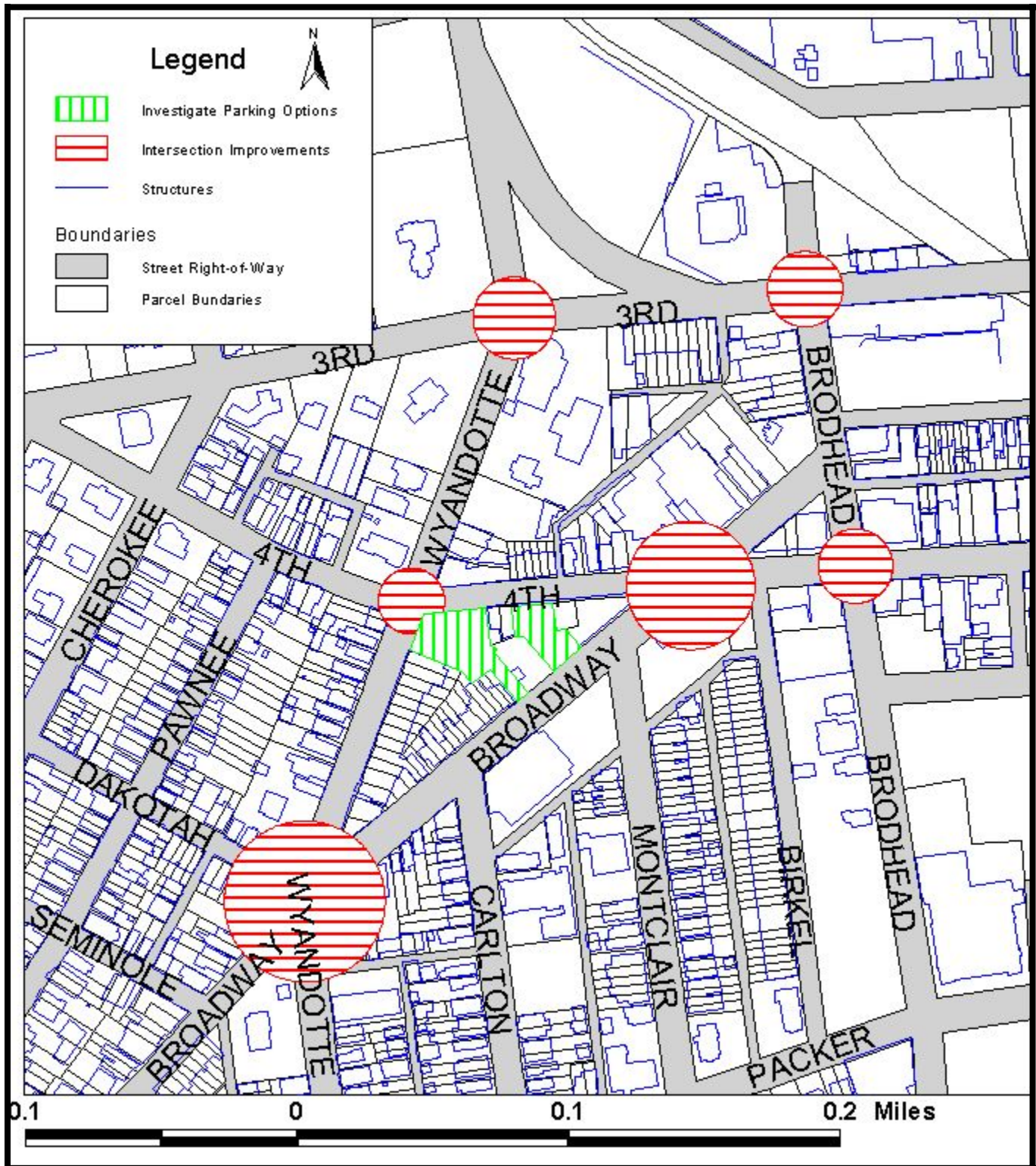
- **Pedestrian Safety**
  1. Design streetscape improvements consistent with City wide design criteria
    - Traffic Calming Measures
      - Textured Crosswalks
      - Bulb-outs
    - Decorative Lighting
    - Landscaping

### **LONG-TERM ACTIONS (24+ months) (Figure 6)**

- **General**
  1. Implement 5 Points Gateway Enhancement Concept
- **Traffic**
  1. Implement one-way couple traffic alternative
  2. Implement signage improvements
- **Parking**
  1. Continue investigating acquisition of properties for additional parking and gateway improvements
- **Pedestrian Safety**
  1. Implement Streetscape Improvements
    - Traffic Calming Measures
      - Textured Crosswalks
      - Bulb-outs
    - Decorative Lighting
    - Landscaping



**Short-Term Actions**  
Figure 5: Short-Term Actions





**Mid-Long Term Actions**  
Figure 6: Long-Term Actions

